

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3334

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

ERDA WASHDC

ERDA GERMANTOWN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19408

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, GW, PINT

SUBJECT: GERMAN POLITICIANS EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT FUTURE  
OF FRG NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM

REF: BONN 19265

BEGIN SUMMARY: GERMAN POLITICIANS OF ALL THREE MAJOR  
POLITICAL PARTIES RECENTLY HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBTS  
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS AN ENERGY SOURCE  
IN THE FRG. END SUMMARY.

1. VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN CITIZEN GROUPS AND  
THE POLICE AT THE SITE OF A NUCLEAR PLANT UNDER CON-  
STRUCTION IN BROKDORF, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, HAVE  
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DRAMATIZED GROWING PUBLIC HOSTILITY TO THE EXPANSION OF

NUCLEAR FACILITIES WITHIN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. WHEN DISCUSSING THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE NEW SOCIAL/LIBERAL COALITION WILL FACE IN THE FUTURE, VOLKER HAUFF, THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY, POINTED TO GROWING PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS. HAUFF REMARKED THAT ANTI-NUCLEAR SENTIMENT WAS GREATER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE THAN IN THE HEAVILY POPULATED URBAN AREAS. THE OPPONENTS OF NUCLEAR POWER MAKE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, HE SAID: THEY INCLUDE LEFT-WINGERS, CONSERVATIVES AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, BUT THERE IS LESS OPPOSITION AMONG THE WORKING CLASS.

2. DISCUSSING THE BROKDORF AFFAIR IN PARTICULAR, ONE SPD POLITICIAN COMMENTED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THIS WEEK

THAT MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES WHO HAD MOVED THERE FROM HAMBURG. THEY WERE HIGHLY ARTICULATE, NOT AFRAID TO CHALLENGE AUTHORITY AND FAMILIAR WITH THE USE OF PUBLICITY AS A POLITICAL WEAPON. IN ADDITION, AS HAMBURGERS THEY HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT ANY PROJECT FOISTED ON THE AREA BY "BUREAUCRATS" IN KIEL, THE CAPITAL OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

3. GERHARD STOLTENBERG, THE CDU MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN AND FORMER FEDERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER IN THE LATE 1960'S, CLAIMS ON THE OTHER HAND THAT THE BONN AUTHORITIES ARE NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO REGIONAL LEADERS IN THIS ISSUE.

4. WHEN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN NOVEMBER 16 BY THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR FOR THE VISITING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EUR/CE, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THREE PARTIES PRESENT (THE CDU, SPD AND FDP) THAT GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION HAD TURNED AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY OFFERS THE MOST PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO GROWING DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE-EASTERN OIL.

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5. WHILE BROKDORF MAY BE A PARTICULAR CASE, GIVEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE RESIDENTS THERE, IT IS NOT UNIQUE AND REPRESENTS A HARBINGER OF FUTURE POLITICAL DEBATES. THE SUCCESS OF THE SWEDISH OPPOSITION PARTIES WITH THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IS WELL KNOWN IN THE FRG, AND IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF ONE POLITICAL GROUP OR ANOTHER DID NOT DECIDE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE ISSUE HERE. IT WILL TAKE

SOME COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WITHSTAND  
POPULAR PRESSURE ON THIS ISSUE. AS OF NOW, SOME  
POLITICIANS WOULD RATHER LIVE WITH INCREASING OIL  
PRICES THAN FACE PUBLIC WRATH ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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